

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 140257Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5032

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11394

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJECT: UTAPAO RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

1. LAST NIGHT (JULY 12) AT A PARTY HOSTED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS I HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH CHARUNPHAN, CHARTCHAI AND ANAND REGARDING THE MEETING HELD THE MORNING OF THAT SAME FRIDAY.

2. CHARTCHAI TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT, TO BE PATIENT AND THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY GET THIS MATTER STRAIGHTENED OUT.

3. CHARUNPHAN INFORMED ME THAT JUST PRIOR TO COMING TO THE PARTY HE HAD BEEN BADGERED BY THE PRESS AT A MEETING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND WAS ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT THAT MORNING. HE TOLD ME ALSO THAT THE BANGKOK POST HAD ATTEMPTED TO CALL HIM DURING OUR CONFERENCE. (WE HAD INFORMED NO ONE IN THE PRESS CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, WHICH WE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.) HE SAID THAT, WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHETHER INDIAN OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS HAD BEEN ON OUR AGENDA, HE COULD NOT DENY IT AND SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED TO PUT HIS REQUEST THAT WE STOP THESE FLIGHTS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE

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THAT THE REPORTERS WOULD FAITHFULLY PRESENT HIS VIEWS.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY ANAND ASKED ME TO STEP OUTSIDE FOR A QUIET DISCUSSION (TO ESCAPE THE NOISE OF THE ROCK BAND THAT WAS PLAYING). WE TALKED FOR ABOUT A HALF HOUR. HE REPEATEDLY ASKED WHY THE INITIAL 1969 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE QUESTIONED ME AS TO WHETHER OR NOT WE INTEND TO SUSPEND THE FLIGHTS; HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE NOT PLAYING SOME GAME WITH THEM. I TOLD ANAND THAT I IMMEDIATELY ADVISED MY GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE THAI INSISTENCE THAT WE END THE FLIGHTS AND ASSURED HIM THAT THEY HAD ENDED. I TOLD HIM WE HAD LEVELLED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT I WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

5. SEVERAL TIMES HE ASSURED ME THAT NEITHER HE NOR ANY PERSON IN A RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN THE RTG WAS IN FAVOR OF ANY IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR AIR FORCES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SPECIFICALLY SEPARATED HIS VIEWS FROM THOSE OF THANAT, WHO, HE SAID, WAS NOT IN A RESPONSIBLE POSITION. BUT HE REITERATED THAT THE RTG COULD NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORT INDIAN OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OR ANY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DIEGO GARCIA. I AGAIN DID NOT MENTION TO HIM THE C-141 SUPPORT FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO TO DIEGO GARCIA.

6. I SUSPECT THAT ANAND WAS LARGELY INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING THAILAND'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE AND THAT HE WISHES TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF THAILAND COULD BE REGARDED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THAILAND'S DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION WITH THE ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT. (IN THIS CONNECTION WE HAVE NOTED THAT ANAND IS USING A COPY OF THE MAY 1974 UN EXPERTS REPORT IN SUPPORT OF HIS POSITION, OBVIOUSLY WITHOUT REMINDING THIS MINISTER THAT THIS DOCUMENT WAS SO BIASED THAT THE UNSYG HIMSELF REQUESTED "CORRECTIONS" /STATE 107963/.) ANAND WAS EXTREMELY PERSISTENT IN PRESSING HIS POINTS OF VIEW AND QUITE CRITICAL OF OUR PAST DETOURS AROUND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OUR TAKING UP MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DIRECTLY WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SUPREME COMMAND. I ASSURED HIM THAT THIS PRACTICE HAD LONG SINCE BEEN STOPPED AND THAT
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WE HAD ENDEAVORED TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. I TOLD HIM ALSO THAT I PRESUMED THAT ANY EXCHANGES THAT WE HAD HAD WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE SUPREME COMMAND WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITHIN OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE RTG.

7. OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ALTHOUGH

ANAND WAS MORE FORTHRIGHTLY CRITICAL OF SOME OF OUR PAST TAKE-THAILAND-FOR-GRANTED ATTITUDES THAN ANY OTHER THAI OFFICIALS I HAVE MET. I BELIEVE ANAND IS QUITE AMBITIOUS AND THAT HE HAS A STRONG BAND OF SUPPORTERS AMONG SOME OF THE YOUNGER OFFICERS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I WOULD GATHER ALSO THAT HE PLACES EQUAL IF NOT GREATER EMPHASIS ON HIS ROLE AS THAI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN THAN HE DOES AS THAIAMBASSADOR TO THE US. I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY JOHN KNOWLES, DEPUTY THAI/BURMA COUNTRY DIRECTOR, THAT ANAND RARELY CONTACTS THE DESK, AND I AM NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH CONTACT HE HAS HAD WITH THE TOP LEVEL OF EA. I RECOMMEND THAT HE BE VERY CAREFULLY AND ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATED.

8. COMMENT: THE SEVERAL ALLUSIONS WHICH ANANAD MADE TO ANY SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA SUGGESTS SOME CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUATION OF OUR SUPPORT FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK AND TRUST THAT WE WILL OBTAIN HIS ASSURANCES THAT THESE SUPPORT FLIGHTS CAN CONTINUE.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY POLICIES, MILITARY BASES, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO11394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740188-0468
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740750/aaaabqxz.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UTAPAO RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, MOPS, TH, XO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005